



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 30, 2003

H.R. 2696

Southwest Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Act of 2003

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on September 24, 2003

SUMMARY

H.R. 2696 would authorize the appropriation of \$15 million a year for the Secretary of Agriculture to establish and provide assistance to three research institutes. Those institutes would develop strategies to reduce the risk of wildfires and enhance the health of forests in certain western states. CBO estimates that implementing this bill would cost \$4 million in 2004 and \$72 million over the 2004-2008 period, assuming appropriation of the specified amounts. The bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 2696 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The bill would authorize federal funds to establish and fund research institutes that could be located at state universities in Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado. Participation by these states would be voluntary.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 2696 will be enacted near the start of fiscal year 2004 and that authorized amounts will be provided as specified in the bill. Estimates of outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar activities. The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 2696 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Authorization Level	15	15	15	15	15
Estimated Outlays	4	11	20	20	17

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 2696 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The bill would authorize federal funds to establish and fund research institutes that could be located at state universities in Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado. Participation by these states would be voluntary.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

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